



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
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October 23, 2009

TO: All Prison Staff
FROM: Richard L. Morgan, Director
Prisons Division
SUBJECT: Weekly Update for Prisons

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "R. Morgan", written over the "FROM:" line of the memo.

This week there is very little to pass along to you related to the prison closure study. The deadline for public comments was Oct. 20. Many people have asked why the comment period was short. To the best of my knowledge, this timeline allowed the consultants the time they needed to get the final draft done by Nov. 2nd. I wish I had more to say about the study but I can only tell you what I know.

I visited McNeil Island last week and Larch Corrections Center this week. During my visits, I was extremely impressed with the professionalism and character that people displayed during this very stressful time. I am sure that future visits to Washington State Penitentiary and Ahtanum View Corrections Center, the other two facilities mentioned in the report, will bring the same level of professionalism.

During my visits I also shared with staff that rumors are likely to erupt over the long period of time this will take to wind it's way through the legislative budget process (five months from now). In a few cases the information that is in the media can also be inaccurate. We are correcting those inaccuracies as we find them. To address the rumors circulating within the agency, I am creating a "rumor clearinghouse." If you hear something of concern and want to check on its accuracy, please feel free to e-mail me.

Thank you for your continued patience as we move through this process.

RLM:mep

"Working Together for SAFE Communities"